

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00480 01 OF 04 231057Z
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4776

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 4 PRAGUE 0480

FOR EUR ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, PDIP, CZ
SUBJECT: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REFS A. STATE 291277, B. STATE 295632, C. STATE 296053

1. OVERVIEW: US POLICIES TOWARD CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE
NECESSARILY CONDITIONED BY THE EBB AND FLOW OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS.
WHEN DETENTE IS ON THE UPSWING, WE CAN MOVE MORE EASILY
TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, BUT WHEN OUR TIES
WITH MOSCOW ARE AS STRAINED AS THEY HAVE BEEN SINCE EARLY 1977,
IT IS MORE COMPLICATED, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN
US-GOC RELATIONS. ANY ATTEMPT TO CHART US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
HERE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS MUST BE CALCULATED ACROSS THIS
UNAVOIDABLE US-SOVIET BACKDROP. WE ARE ASSUMING THAT A SALT II
ACCORD MAY WELL BE SIGNED THIS YEAR, POSSIBLY AT THE SUMMIT,
AND THAT NOTWITHSTANDING SERIOUS US-SOVIET STRAINS OVER SUCH QUESTIONS

AS HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE HORN OF AFRICA STRUGGLE, THERE WILL BE
SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER WASHINGTON'S 1977 RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW.
IF THIS PROGNOSIS IS GENERALLY ACCURATE, THEN WE THINK IT
SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MOVE AHEAD SLOWLY BUT SURELY TOWARD
REALIZATION OF SOME PRINCIPAL UNITED STATES GOALS AND
OBJECTIVES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS CAN BE
ACHIEVED, HOWEVER, ONLY RPT ONLY THROUGH SETTLEMENT OF THE PIVOTAL
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00480 01 OF 04 231057Z

ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS--THE CLAIMS/GOLD PROBLEM. WITH
REGARD TO THIS KEY ISSUE, WE THINK IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE TOWARD
A FORMAL SETTLEMENT BY CAPITALIZING ON PRAGUE'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE
UPON ITS CURRENTLY TARNISHED IMAGE IN WORLD AFFAIRS. FAILURE TO
RESOLVE THE OVERRIDING CLAIMS/GOLD PROBLEM, WHICH MUST BE SETTLED
TO OPEN THE WAY FOR CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING MFN TO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WOULD CONSIGN US TO CONTINUED PREOCCUPATION WITH

ESSENTIALLY SECONDARY COMMERCIAL, CONSULAR, CULTURAL AND OTHER ISSUES.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS A DISCUSSION, PER REFTEL (A), OF SPECIFIC POLICY ISSUES AFFECTING US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WITH ATTENTION TO THE IMPACT OF PROJECTED DEVELOPMENTS ON ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES; THE GENERAL COURSE OF ACTION EMBASSY PLANS TO TAKE; AND AN EVALUATION OF WHERE EMBASSY CURRENTLY STANDS ON EACH ISSUE. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO INCORPORATE IN DISCUSSION OF EACH ITEM THE REQUESTS OF EUR REGARDING VALIDITY OF CURRENT POLICIES, ACTIONS AMBASSADOR HIMSELF PROPOSES, SPECIFIC QUESTIONS NEEDING EARLY WASHINGTON DECISION, INTRA-EMBASSY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, AND PARTICIPATION OF OTHER AGENCIES.

3. I. ENCOURAGEMENT OF GREATER CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE INTERNATIONALLY. WE BELIEVE, AS REASONED ABOVE, THAT PROGRESS HERE WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON THE COURSE OF US-SOVIET DETENTE. ONLY WITH A RELAXATION OF EAST-WEST TENSIONS CAN MOSCOW BE EXPECTED TO EASE ITS GRIP ON THIS MOST SERVILE OF ITS SATELLITES. MEANWHILE IN COORDINATION WITH OUR OWN ALLIES, WE SHOULD SEEK TO IMPRESS UPON PRAGUE THE TANGIBLE BENEFITS THAT CAN BE GAINED IN THE WEST FROM A MEASURE OF INDEPENDENCE--AS BUCHAREST HAS SHOWN WITH ITS EXTERNAL MANEUVERING AND HUNGARY WITH ITS INTERNAL RELAXATION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE RETURN OF THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN TO HUNGARY AS A PARTICULARLY RELEVANT CASE IN POINT.
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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00480 01 OF 04 231057Z

AT PRESENT, IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT OUR ABILITY TO ENCOURAGE GREATER CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE IS ALMOST TOTALLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. BUT WE BELIEVE OUR CURRENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES--FOCUSING, IN PARTICULAR, ON RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS/GOLD PROBLEM--REMAIN THE BEST COURSE TOWARD HELPING CZECHOSLOVAKIA GAIN GRADUALLY INCREASED MANEUVERING ROOM FROM MOSCOW.

--DIMINISHING MEDIA ATTACKS: THE CONTINUING EAST-WEST DEBATE ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WILL STIMULATE FURTHER LOCAL MEDIA CRITICISM OF US POLICIES FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE EMPHASIZE TO THE CZECHS THAT THE PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE RESULT OF THIS SITUATION WILL BE A CONTINUED DISINCLINATION IN THE LEADERSHIP OF BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE USG TO UNDERTAKE INITIATIVES IN PRAGUE'S BEHALF. THE PROSPECT, UNFORTUNATELY, IS FOR FURTHER PROTESTS TO GOC OVER THE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVITY OF ITS PERSISTENT MEDIA ATTACKS AGAINST ALMOST ALL THINGS AMERICAN. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE ATTACKS HAVE NOT VITIATED EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES TO MAKE PROGRESS ON SELECTED ISSUES.

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00480 02 OF 04 231035Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 4 PRAGUE 0480

FOR EUR ONLY

--SEEKING IMPROVED ACCESS. OUR CURRENT POLICIES, PRESEING
THE CZECHOSLOVAKS INPRAGUE AS WELL AS WASHINGTON FOR INCREASED
OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH LOCAL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HAVE
BEEN MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL IN RECENT MONTHS. I BELIEVE OUR APPROACH
IS OPTIMAL AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. FOR MY PART, I SHALL PERSIST
IN EFFORT HERE TO OPEN UP INCREASINGLY DIRECT ACCESS, NOT ONLY
FOR MYSELF, BUT ALSO FOR ALL OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. WE WILL
APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUED SUPPORT BY MAKING THE
CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY AWARE THAT ITS ACCESS TO SENIOR USG OFFICIALS
DEPENDS ON RECIPROCITY.

--CONCLUDING EXCHANGES ACCORD PROGRAM DOCUMENTS. WHILE WE MUST
CONTINUE TO KEEP AN EYE ON POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS
DEVELOPMENTS HERE, IT SEEMS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT WE CAN COMPLETE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROGRAM DOCUMENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEN,
WE CAN SIMPLY WAIT UNTIL A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR SIGNING THE EXCHANGES
AGREEMENT PACKAGE AND PUTTING IT INTO EFFECT. OUR PRESENT PACE
SEEMS PROPER TO ME; I BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROBABLY FOREGO A
SIGNING CEREMONY UNTIL AFTER THIS AUGUST'S 10H ANNIVERSARY OF THE
1968 ARMED INTERVENTION AGAINST DUBCEK. THE CZECHS APPEAR
ANXIOUS TO SEND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JABLONSKY TO WASHINGTON
TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, AND I THINK WE SHOULD EXPLOIT THAT DESIRE
IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A QUID PRO QUO. IN THE INTERIM, THE GOC, ALWAYS
TRYING TO AVOID PARIAS STATUS, HAS SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO GO
AHEAD WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF EXCHANGES, AND WE SHOULD CONTINUE
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00480 02 OF 04 231035Z

OUR PRESENTLY MODEST DE FACTO PROGRAM WITH THEM.

--BROADEN AWARENESS OF US ACHIEVEMENTS. WESTERN RADIO BROADCASTS,

ESPECIALLY VOA, AND THE EMBASSY'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM REPRESENT OUR PRINCIPAL CHANNELS OF INFORMATION TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE. WHILE THE IDEOLOGICALLY RIGID PARTY-STATE REGIME HERE CONTINUES TO PLACE MANY OBSTACLES IN THOSE CHANNELS, THEY REMAIN OUR BEST HOPE FOR REACHING THE POPULACE. IN ADDITION, SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICERS AND I CONTRIBUTE WHAT WE CAN THROUGH PROMOTION OF VISITS BY AMERICAN SPECIALISTS, TRYING TO ATTRACT THE BROADEST POSSIBLE SPECTRUM OF CZECHOSLOVAKS TO EMBASSY RECEPTIONS, AND GENERALLY DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH AS MANY CZECHOSLOVAK CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC SPECIALISTS AS WE CAN.

--REOPENING US CONGEN BRATISLAVA. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS INDICATE THEY PLAN TO RETURN TO THIS ISSUE ONLY AFTER GAINING A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS/GOLD IMBROGLIO. NONETHELESS, I AND MY STAFF CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE TO SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE THE MUTUAL BENEFITS THAT COULD FLOW FROM REOPENING OF OUR CONSULATE GENERAL. THE EMBASSY ALSO SEES TO IT THAT THE CONGEN PREMISES ARE WELL MAINTAINED AND READY FOR A RAPID OPENING OF BUSINESS, SHOULD THIS BECOME POSSIBLE.

--IMPLEMENTING US-GOC CONSULAR CONVENTION. IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THIS CONVENTION WAS SIGNED DURING SECRETARY ROGER'S VISIT TO PRAGUE IN JULY 1973 AND REQUIRES ONLY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OF RATIFICATION IN ORDER TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS SIGNAL TO US THAT THIS FINAL RATIFICATION MEASURE ALSO AWAITS A SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS/GOLD. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE IN REALITY RECEIVING MOST OF THE BENEFITS SPECIFIED IN THE CONSULAR CONVENTION--PARTLY BECAUSE OF PROTECTION GRANTED UNDER A 1928 BILATERAL TREATY, WHICH SUCCESSIVE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS HERE HAVE HONORED.

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00480 02 OF 04 231035Z

--ONCE US NEGOTIATING POSITION IS SET, NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS/GOLD. I CONTINUE TO FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE US SIDE SHOULD MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PROPOSAL FOR RENEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT OF US CLAIMS--AS REQUIRED UNDER THE 1974 TRADE ACT. WHILE THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT PRESENTLY SHOWS LITTLE PROCLIVITY TO MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD A SETTLEMENT, IT DOES WANT TO RESOLVE THIS NUMBER-ONE BILATERAL ISSUE WITH US (ON TERMS AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THOSE NEGOTIATED IN 1974) AND OPEN POSSIBILITIES FOR GAINING MFN, EXPORT-IMPORT CREDITS, AND OTHER BENEFITS OF A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP. IT DOES NOT WANT TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, AS DEMANDEUR. FOR OUR PART, I BELIEVE A MAJOR EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE EARLY THIS YEAR IN WASHINGTON TO SHAPE OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD THEN BE IN POSITION TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE MATTER AS WE SEE FIT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OVERALL POLITICAL CLIMATE IN WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO NEGOTIATE. DESPITE THE MANIFEST IMPOSSIBILITY OF ACCURATELY PREDICTING UPS AND DOWNS OF US-GOC RELATIONS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, I BELIEVE

THERE IS AT LEAST A FAIR CHANCE THAT A FINAL SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED DURING THAT PERIOD.

--EXPLAIN US POLICY ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. AS NOTED PRAGUE 0097, THE EMBASSY SEES SCANT PURPOSE IN FOCUSING OFFICIAL ATTENTION HERE ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES AS A SPECIFIC POLICY OBJECTIVE. ON ALL SUCH ISSUES, THE CZECHOSLOVAKS FOLLOW MOSCOW'S LEAD AND THEN ADOPT POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS THE WEST THAT ARE EVEN MORE RIGID THAN THOSE OF THE SOVIETS. ONLY IN INSTANCES IN WHICH THE SOVIETS MIGHT DECIDE TO BE HELPFUL WOULD IT BE PRODUCTIVE TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH THE CZECHS. THE EMBASSY WILL NEVERTHELESS, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO EXPLAIN TO CZECHOSLOVAKS US POLICIES ON NORTH-SOUTH QUESTIONS AND WILL REPORT ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS.

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00480 03 OF 04 231112Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 4 PRAGUE 0480

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3. II. ENCOURAGEMENT OF INTERNAL LIBERALIZATION, A MORE LURALISTIC SOCIETY, AND MORE OPENESS TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE.

--REITERATING US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. MY STAFF AND I REMAIN LERT, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, FOR EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSCORE US COMMITMENTS TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS. MEANWHILE, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR USG SPOKESMEN IN WASHINGTON TO CONTINUE TO DEFINE US VIEWS ON THESE POLICIES, AND WE WELCOME VOA (AS WELL AS RFE) BROADCASTS ON THEM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ASK THAT WASHINGTON WEIGH CAREFULLY THE OCCASIONS THAT ARISE FOR TAKING CZECHOSLOVAK HUMAN RIGHTS CASES INTO PUBLIC FORA, SINCE USING CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS A PERENNIAL WHIPPING BOY FOR SOVIET SINS IS PATENTLY UNJUST AND SIMPLY PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE IN THE LEADERSHIP WHO ARGUE THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL NEVER GET A FAIR DEAL FROM THE WEST. NOTALBY, CZECH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TELL US THEY APPRECIATE US OFFICIAL EMPHASIS ON RESPECT FOR PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, BUT THEY ADVOCATE AVOIDANCE OF HEAVY-HANDED ATTACKS ON MOSCOW, THE EFFECTS OF WHICH SERIOUSLY

UNDERMINE DETENTE.

--URGING BETTER COMPLIANCE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE
HELSINKI FINAL ACT. WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE NO CURRENT
PROSPECT FOR OVERCOMING THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF US EMPHASIS
ON CSCE PRINCIPLE VII (RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS) BEING COUNTERED BY CZECHOSLOVAK
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00480 03 OF 04 231112Z

ASSERTIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF PRINCIPLE VI (NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL

AFFAIRS), THE EMBASSY HAS FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE MEASURED
PROGRESS ON BASKET III PROVISIONS RELATING TO HUMAN CONTACTS.
WITH REGARD TO BASKET I PRINCIPLES, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO
CONTINUE STRESSING THAT ON NON-INTERFERENCE IT IS NOT THE UNITED
STATES WHICH IN INTERVENING IN CZECHOSLOVAK AFFAIRS; ON HUMAN RIGHTS,

THE USG HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO SPEAK OUT ON OBVIOUS VIOLATIONS
OF FINAL ACT PRECEPTS RELATING TO FREEDOM; AND ON RESPECT FOR
SELF-DETERMINATION (PRINCIPLE VII), US POLICIES TOWARD CZECHOSLOVAKIA
HAVE CONSISTENTLY HONORED THIS CONCEPT SINCE WOODROW WILSON FIRST
POPULARIZED IT AT VERSAILLES IN 1918, ALTHOUGH OTHERS HAVE CONSISTENTLY

SOUGHT TO ATTENUATE CZECHOSLOVAK SELF-DETERMINATION. AS FOR
BASKET III, WE BELIEVE THE PROPER COURSE IS FOR USG TO CONTINUE
PATIENTLY AND METHODICALLY TO UTILIZE OPENINGS PROVIDED IN THE
FINAL ACT TO INCREASE THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, BINATIONAL
MARRIAGES, PRIVATE TRAVEL, AND OTHER HUMAN CONTACTS. WE BELIEVE
DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO DRAW MORE FAVORABLE ATTENTION TO SUCH
CONSTRUCTIVE GOC ACTIONS AS PROGRESS ON REUNITING FAMILIES AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 58, ON NORMALIZING THE STATUS OF "ILLEGAL
EMIGRANTS", IN FORTHCOMING REPORTS ON THE CSCE COMMISSION.

--SECURING BETTER TREATMENT OF US JOURNALISTS. WE ADVOCATE
CONTINUED OFFICIAL EFFORTS BOTH IN WASHINGTON, WITH CZECHOSLOVAK
EMBASSY, AND PRAGUE, AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO GAIN REASONABLE GOC
RESPECT FOR CSCE PROVISIONS ON IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS
FOR JOURNALISTS. THERE HAS BEEN SOME RECENT IMPROVEMENT HERE ON
THIS ISSUE (AS REFLECTED IN TREATMENT OF NYT CORRESPONDENT ANDELMAN),
BUT GOC OFFICIALS STILL INDICATE THAT VISITING US JOURNALISTS WHO
SEEK ONLY TO REPORT VIEWS OF CZECH DISSIDENTS WILL HAVE TO EXPECT
REACTION FROM INTERNAL SECURITY AGENTS. SINCE THE

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00480 03 OF 04 231112Z

CORE OF THIS PROBLEM RESES ON CLASHING US AND GOC VIEWS ON HUMAN
RIGHTS, US JOURNALISTS WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE

DIFFICULTY HERE IN MONTHS AHEAD. BUT EMBASSY WILL KEEP STEADY
PRESSURE ON GOC TO TREAT AMERICAN JOURNALISTS FAIRLY.

5. III. THE ADVANCEMENT OF ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED
STATES AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHOULD BE VIEWED AS BOTH A WORTHY GOAL
IN ITSELF, AND AS AN EFFORT DIRECTLY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR MAJOR
COUNTRY OBJECTIVES.

--THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF GREATER CZECHOSLOVAK INTERNATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE. THE PRIMARY INGREDIENT OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC TIES--
TRADE--MUST BE FOSTERED, NOT ONLY TO CONTRIBUTE WHAT THIS MISSION
CAN TO THE ALLEVIATION OF OUR WORLD-WIDE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
SLIDE, BUT TO CREATE IN THIS COUNTRY A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC SEGMENT
WITH A VESTED INTEREST IN CONTINUED AND CLOSER
TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES.

--ONE OF THE FEW OPEN MANIFESTATIONS OF U.S.-CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMIC
COUNCIL WHICH WAS CREATED BY
THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THE EMBASSY
MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACT WITH BOTH SECTIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND
SUPPORTS ITS ACTIVITIES BY ASSISTING THE MEMBERS AS THEY PURSUE
THEIR INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS GOALS. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE OF THE
COUNCIL HAS BECOME INVALUABLE TO THE EMBASSY'S TRADE PROMOTION
EFFORTS BY CO-SPONSORING OUR TECHNICAL SALES SEMINARS.

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00480 04 OF 04 231143Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 4 OF 4 PRAGUE 0480

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--IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, THE EMBASSY WILL
CONTINUE TO SPONSOR TECHNICAL SALES SEMINARS WHICH, WE BELIEVE,
BOTH ENHANCE TRADE PROSPECTS AND ALLOW A RANGE OF CONTACTS NOT
OTHERWISE AVAILABLE. IN 1978 TWO SEMINARS (ON MATERIALS TEST
EQUIPMENT AND PROCESS CONTROL EQUIPMENT) WILL BE CONDUCTED;
PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR THREE SEMINARS IN 1979.

--WITH THE OPENING OF A BUSINESS FACILITATION CENTER SPACE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SMALL SEMINARS TO BE HELD ON EMBASSY PREMISES. SEVERAL COMPANIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN USING THE EMBASSY FOR SINGLE-COMPANY PROGRAMS, AND THEIR ONLY HESITATION IS THE UNCERTAINTY MANY CZECHOSLOVAKS MAY FEEL OVER THE PROPRIETY OF ENTERING EMBASSY GROUNDS. PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THESE DOUBTS MAY BE TECHNOCRATS WHOSE CHIEF POLITICAL AMBITIONS ARE TO AVOID ALL POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS. SUCH FEARS MAY BE OVERBLOWN AND WE HOPE TO STAGE OUR FIRST SINGLE-COMPANY SEMINAR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

--THE MAJOR TRADE EVENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK YEAR IS THE INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING FAIR HELD EACH SEPTEMBER IN BRNO. IN 1978 THE EMBASSY WILL SPONSOR ITS SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE EXHIBIT AT THE FAIR, A PROJECT WHICH YIELDS SIGNIFICANT RESULTS IN DIRECT SALES AND GIVES THE EMBASSY MUCH-NEED PUBLICITY IN THE MORAVIAN
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00480 04 OF 04 231143Z

CAPITAL.

--THE WEAKEST PART OF OUR TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAM TO DATE HAS BEEN MARKET RESEARCH. MUCH OF THE INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION NORMALLY

AVAILABLE IN THE WEST AND USED FOR MARKET EVALUATION IS CLOSED FROM VIEW IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE SITUATION SEEMS LITTLE IMPROVED SINCE HELSINKI, YET THE EMBASSY HAS EMBARKED ON A SERIES OF MARKET STUDIES WHICH INITIALLY ARE AIMED AT SUPPORTING AND PLANNING FUTURE USDOC-SPONSORED EVENTS. AS THE PROGRAM DEVELOPS, WE HOPE TO EXPAND COVERAGE TO EARMARK PROMISING TRADE FIELDS WHICH WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE THE SUBJECT OF FORMAL EVENTS, BUT WHICH NEVERTHELESS MAY OFFER IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES TO AMERICAN BUSINESS.

--SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE EASE WITH WHICH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN CAN MEET APPROPRIATE CZECHOSLOVAK COUNTERPARTS. ALTHOUGH ACCESS IS STILL SOMETIMES A PROBLEM, THE GREATER PROBLEM REMAINS THE QUESTION OF EXACTLY WHO THE PROPER CONTACT IS. THE EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL SECTION WILL CONTINUE TO WIDEN ITS RANGE OF CONTACTS AMONG FTO'S, MINISTRIES, AND ENTERPRISES SO AS TO MORE PRECISELY DIRECT THOSE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN COMING TO US FOR HELP AND ADVICE.

--THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION BY NECESSITY CONSTANTLY REVIEWS CZECHOSLOVAK PROGRESS, OR LACK THEREOF, IN BASKET II IMPLEMENTATION. THE PERSISTENT INABILITY TO OBTAIN EVEN QUITE INNOCUOUS INFORMATION SERVES AS A PAINFUL REMINDER OF HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO. WE WILL CONTINUE

TO PRESS FOR GREATER ACCESS TO PEOPLE AND INFORMATION THROUGH
APPROACHES TO MINISTRIES (FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE
IN PARTICULAR) AND THROUGH GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK
SIDE OF THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL WHOSE RESOURCES HAVE PROBABLY
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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00480 04 OF 04 231143Z

NOT BEEN FULLY EXPLOITED.

6. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVEMENTIONED ISSUES AGREED UPON IN
WASHINGTON INTER-AGENCY CLEARANCE PROCESS, I CONTINUE TO
BELIEVE (AS STATED PARA THREE PRAGUE 0097) THAT ANY STATEMENT
OF U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHOULD INCLUDE
MENTION OF A LONGTERM EFFORT, IN COORDINATION WITH OUR ALLIES,
TO SEEK A GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS. IN THE MEANTIME,
A CONTINUING OBJECTIVE MUST BE THE CLOSE MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES
OF CZECHOSLOVAK AND SOVIET FORCES TO PERMIT A CONSTANT ASSESSMENT
OF THEIR POTENTIAL THREAT TO NATO. EMBASSY MILITARY ATTACHES
ARE EVALUATING WITH SPECIAL CARE THE QUESTION WHETHER CZECHOSLOVAK
TROOPS WOULD BE LED BY SOVIET GENERALS (THIS APPEARS TO BE THE CASE)
OR CZECH OFFICERS (WHO MIGHT BE LESS RESOLUTE IN DEFENDING MOSCOW'S
INTEREST IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES). AFTER ALL, OUR VITAL
INTERESTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE IMPINGE MORE DIRECTLY ON SUCH POLITICAL/
MILITARY QUESTIONS THAN ON MOST OF THE ISSUES SET FORTH IN
PARAGRAPHS 3-5 OF THIS MESSAGE.
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Subject: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA
TAGS: AMGT, PDIP, CZ, US
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